CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:

a light source, wherein the light source is oriented towards the key;

one or more keys; and

at least one glyph for each key, each glyph having a characteristic corresponding to the light being provided from the light source.

2. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein characteristics of the light being provided from the light source are selectable.

3. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the characteristics include intensity, wavelength, and location.

4. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the top surface of the key is white.

5. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the top surface of the key is black.

6. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the key is translucent.

7. The apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein the glyph is transparent.

8. The apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein the glyph is translucent.

9. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the key is transparent.

10. The apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein the glyph is translucent.

11. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the first key includes a plurality of keys.

12. The apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein the glyphs on each one of the plurality of keys are transparent.

13. The apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein the glyphs each one of the plurality of keys are translucent.

14. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a selector coupled to the light source.

15. The apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein the selector selects at least one characteristic of the light source.

16. The apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein the characteristic selected is a wavelength of light.

17. The apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the wavelength is a complimentary color to a color of a selected glyph.

18. The apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the selected wavelength of the light source increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the selected glyph.

19. The apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the selected wavelength of the light source is not a complimentary color to the color of the selected glyph.

20. The apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the selected wavelength of the light source decreases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the selected glyph.

21. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is a light emitting diode (LED).

22. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is at least on of a group consisting of: a fluorescent light source, a laser light source, an incandescent light source, an ultraviolet light source, or an infrared light source.

23. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is under the key.

24. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is above the key.

25. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is toward a side of the key.

26. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is located inside the key.

27. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the glyph selector is a thumbwheel.

28. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the glyph selector is a second key.

29. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the glyph selector is voice activated.

30. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the glyph selector is a portion of a touch-screen.

31. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the glyph selector is software.

32. A method comprising:

providing a key wherein the key includes at least one glyph wherein each glyph has a color; and

selecting one glyph on at least one key by lighting the key with a selected light source.

33. The method as recited in claim 32, wherein the light source includes a selectable color.

34. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein at least one of the selectable colors causes the selected glyph to have an increased contrast when compared to the glyph other than the selected glyph.

35. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein at least one of the selectable colors causes the selected glyph to have a decreased contrast when compared to the glyph other than the selected glyph.

36. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the wavelength of the selected light source is complimentary in color to the color of the selected glyph.

37. An apparatus comprising:

a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys;

a plurality of glyphs on each key wherein each glyph includes a color;

a light source including a plurality of selectable colors wherein the light source is under the keyboard, wherein the color selected increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the selected glyph; and

a glyph selector wherein the glyph selector is coupled to the light source.

38. The apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein the light source includes a plurality of light sources and wherein at least one of the plurality of light sources is under each key.

39. An apparatus comprising:

a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys;

a plurality of glyphs on each key wherein each glyph includes a color;

a light source including a plurality of selectable colors wherein the light source is above the keyboard, wherein the selected color increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the selected glyph; and

a glyph selector wherein the glyph selector is coupled to the light source.

40. The apparatus as recited in claim 39, wherein the light source is directed toward the keyboard.

41. An apparatus comprising:

a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys;

a plurality of glyphs on each key wherein each glyph includes a color;

a light source including a plurality of selectable colors wherein the light source is located on the perimeter of the keyboard, wherein the selected color increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the selected glyph; and

a glyph selector wherein the glyph selector is coupled to the light source.

42. The apparatus as recited in claim 41 wherein a light ray from the light source is substantially conducted laterally from the perimeter of the keyboard through at least one side of at least one of the plurality of keys.

43. The apparatus as recited in claim 41, wherein a light ray from the light source is substantially conducted laterally from a first key of a plurality of keys to a second key of the plurality of keys.

44. A method comprising:

providing a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys wherein each one of the keys includes a plurality of glyphs and wherein each glyph has a color;

providing a light source with a plurality of selectable colors; and

selecting at least one of the plurality of selectable colors wherein the selected color increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the selected glyph.

45. The method as recited in claim 44, wherein the light source is within each one of the plurality of keys.

46. The method as recited in claim 44, wherein the light source includes a plurality of light sources and wherein at least one of the plurality of light sources is under each one of the plurality of keys.

47. A method comprising:

providing a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys wherein each one of the keys includes a plurality of glyphs and wherein each glyph has a color;

providing a light source with a plurality of selectable colors wherein the light source is located above the keyboard; and

selecting at least one of the plurality of selectable colors, wherein the selected color increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the selected glyph.

48. A method comprising:

providing a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys wherein each one of the keys includes a plurality of glyphs and wherein each glyph has a color;

providing a light source with a plurality of selectable colors wherein the light source is located in the perimeter of the keyboard; and

selecting at least one of the plurality of selectable colors, wherein the selected color increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the selected glyph.

49. The apparatus as recited in claim 48 wherein a light ray from the light source is substantially conducted laterally from the perimeter of the keyboard through at least one side of at least one of the plurality of keys.

50. The apparatus as recited in claim 48, wherein a light ray from the light source is substantially conducted laterally from a first key of a plurality of keys to a second key of the plurality of keys.